

## **Masks Required for All Indoor Settings within the Town of Arlington**

Cases of COVID-19 in vaccinated and unvaccinated residents due to the highly contagious Delta variant have been increasing in Arlington since July 2021. On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control issued an advisory for vaccinated persons in areas of substantial and high transmission to wear a mask while indoors. A mask mandate is an immediate intervention to prevent the spread of disease within spaces open to the public.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 111 sections 31 and 104, the Arlington Board of Health adopts a public health mandate effective August 19, 2021, requiring face coverings for all persons at all times when inside public spaces or private spaces open to the public. This mandate applies to individuals aged two years and over except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. If a customer refuses to wear a mask or cloth face covering for non-medical reasons, a business may decline entry to the individual.

- Food service establishment customers may only remove face coverings when seated.
- Performance venue customers may only remove face coverings in the actual act of eating and drinking. Indoor performers are required to wear face coverings, except where they are able to maintain a minimum of 25 feet of distance from members of the audience. Indoor bar and dance venue customers may only remove face coverings when seated at tables or seated at a bar. Patrons standing or ordering at the bar must be masked. Guests must be masked on indoor dance floors.
- Lodging guests and workers are required to wear face coverings when inside hallways and common areas.
- Residents, visitors and employees in multi-unit homes and apartments are required to wear face coverings when inside common hallways and spaces.
- Members, visitors and employees in private membership clubs are required to wear face coverings while indoors. Houses of worship are covered by this order.
- Fitness Centers/Health Clubs workers, customers, and visitors are required to wear face coverings during fitness activity, including strenuous activity.
- At personal services establishments, including but not limited to barber shops, hair and nail salons, all customers and workers are required to wear face coverings, except for skin or beard care that occurs on the face, the customer may temporarily remove the face covering but must immediately put the face covering back on for the remainder of the visit.
- Masks remain mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings.
- All businesses open to the public must post signage (i.e. entry ways, points of service, etc.) advising customers that facemasks must be maintained inside the establishment. Establishment staff must supervise and enforce this requirement.

This **mandate** will be in effect whenever the [Level of Community Transmission](#) data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Middlesex County is categorized as either “Substantial” or “High” over a consecutive two week period.

This mandate will no longer be in effect whenever the [Level of Community Transmission](#) data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Middlesex County is categorized as either “Low” or “Moderate” over a consecutive two week period